Docket No.

240298US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Toshiya MATSUBARA, et al.

SERIAL NO: New Application

GAU:

FILED:

Herewith

EXAMINER:

FOR:

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING INORGANIC SPHERES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

C. Irvin McClelland Registration Number 21,124

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000 Fax. (703) 413-2220 (OSMMN 05/03)

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LIST OF RELATED CASES

<u>Docket Number</u> 0059-0949-0	Serial or Patent Number 5,849,055	Filing or <u>Issue Date</u> 12/15/98	Inventor/ Applicant ARAI, et al.
0059-1187-0 PCT	6,267,942	07/31/01	MORI, et al.
199327US0	6,451,862	09/17/02	KUSAKA, et al.
PER CLIENT	5,376,347	12/27/94	IPPONMATSU, et al.

DOCKET NO:

240298US0

page $\underline{1}$ of $\underline{1}$

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SERIAL NO.: New Application

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FILED: Herewith

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING INORGANIC SPHERES

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AP and AQ on Form PTO-1449:

These references are discussed in the specification.

Form PTO 1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 240298US0		SERIAL NO.					
				New Application					
			APPLICANT						
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT			Toshiya MATSUBARA, et al.						
			FILING DATE		GROUP				
		Herewith)					
				U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME CLASS		SUB FILING DATE CLASS IF APPROPRIATE			
	AA	5,376,347	12/27/94	Masamichi IPPONMATSU, et al.					
	AB	US 2002/0043731 A1	4/18/02	Mitsutoshi NAKAJIMA, et al.					
	AC	6,451,862	9/17/02	Makoto KUSAKA, et al.					
	AD	6,267,942	7/31/01	Hiroo MORI, et al.					
	AE	5,849,055	12/15/98	Kiyotaka ARAI, et al.					
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	AO	2001-146415	5/29/01	Japan (with English Abstract)			X		
	AP	2-61407	12/20/90	Japan			X.		
	AQ	57-55454	11/24/82	Japan			Х		
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)									
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	AZ			Additional References sheet(s) attached					
Examiner				Date Considered					
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									
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